

**religion**[rɪˈlɪdʒ(ə)n] *n*

1. 1) религия
- 2) религия, религиозное учение  
Buddhist religion - буддизм
2. монашество  
to lead the life of religion - вести монашеский образ жизни  
to enter into religion - постричься в монахи
3. культ, святыня  
to make (a) religion of smth. - сделать из чего-л. культ; молиться на что-л.  
she makes a religion keeping her house clean and tidy - чистота и порядок в доме - это у неё культ

**religion**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**re-li-gion** [religion religions] *BrE* [rɪˈlɪdʒən] <sup>ⓘ</sup> *NAmE* [rɪˈlɪdʒən] <sup>ⓘ</sup> **noun**

1. **uncountable** the belief in the existence of a god or gods, and the activities that are connected with the worship of them
  - Is there always a conflict between science and religion?
2. **countable** one of the systems of faith that are based on the belief in the existence of a particular god or gods
  - the Jewish religion
  - Christianity, Islam and other world religions
  - The law states that everyone has the right to practise their own religion.
3. **singular** a particular interest or influence that is very important in your life
  - For him, football is an absolute religion.

Idiom: <sup>↑</sup>get religionWord Origin:

Middle English (originally in the sense 'life under monastic vows'): from Old French, or from Latin **religio(n)-** 'obligation, bond, reverence', perhaps based on Latin **religare** 'to bind'.

Culture:**religion in Britain**

In the Census of 2001, British people were asked for the first time to answer a question about their religion, although they were not forced to answer the question. 77% replied that they had a religion and 71% of them said that they were Christian, 3% Muslim and 1% Hindu, with smaller groups replying that they were Sikh, Jewish or Buddhist. Although the majority of the population describe themselves as Christian, only a small proportion, about 4%, go to church regularly. British people rarely discuss religion and feel that a person's religious beliefs are a private matter.

The established (= official) church in England is the <sup>↑</sup>Church of England. Members of the Church describe themselves informally as 'C of E'. In Scotland it is the <sup>↑</sup>Presbyterian Church of Scotland, known by Scots as 'the kirk'. There is no established church in Wales and Northern Ireland. In Wales the Anglican Church is known as the <sup>↑</sup>Church in Wales. The Church is involved in political life as <sup>↑</sup>archbishops and some <sup>↑</sup>bishops are members of the <sup>↑</sup>House of Lords and are chosen by the Queen following the advice of the Prime Minister. The monarch must be a member of the Church of England and is its official head. Christian religious education is provided in state schools but children do not have to take part. About 10% of the population are <sup>↑</sup>Roman Catholic and there are also Catholic schools.

Protestant groups other than the church of England are called **Free** or <sup>↑</sup>Nonconformist Churches. The Free Churches include the <sup>↑</sup>United Reformed Church, the **Baptist Church** and the **Methodist Church**. Nonconformist churches are also sometimes called chapels.

Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus in Britain are mainly from families who came to Britain after **World War 11** from <sup>↑</sup>India and <sup>↑</sup>Pakistan, although there has been a Muslim community in Britain since the 16th century. The history of Jews in Britain goes back to Roman times but many Jews in Britain today are from families who came to Britain as refugees from other countries in Europe at various times in the 19th and 20th centuries. Synagogues, mosques, Hindu temples and gurdwaras (= Sikh places of worship) are found in cities and many towns. The first British mosque was established in Cardiff in 1860 and the first gurdwara in London in 1911. The Hindu temple at Neasden in London is the largest in Europe. The <sup>↑</sup>Chief Rabbi is the main representative of British Jews and there are many religious organizations that represent particular religious groups. The Muslim Council of Britain and the Hindu Forum are among the largest of these.

Culture:**religion in the US**

In 2002 the largest Christian church in the US was the **Roman Catholic Church** with 63 million members, followed by the Southern Baptist Convention with 16 million members. There are many different Christian churches in the US and the majority of religious Americans are <sup>↑</sup>Protestant Christians. In 2001 76% of Americans described themselves as Christian. Although there is no established (= official) religion in the US, religion plays an important part in public life and churches are centres of social events and business activities as well as places of worship. The <sup>↑</sup>Pledge of Allegiance includes the phrase 'one nation under God' and the official US motto is 'In God We Trust'. Since the 1960s some Americans have tried to stop government support of religion. The <sup>↑</sup>Establishment Clause in the Constitution forbids the establishment of a state religion. In 1963 the <sup>↑</sup>Supreme Court decided it was 'unconstitutional' for students to pray or read the Bible in class but many schools ignore this ruling. What is taught about evolution in schools is a subject of much legal debate with some religious people objecting to the teaching of evolution as scientific fact and other Americans arguing that creationism (= the belief that the universe was made by God exactly as described in the Bible) is religion and should not be taught in schools.

The largest Protestant group in the US are the Baptists. Other groups include <sup>↑</sup>Methodists, <sup>↑</sup>Lutherans, <sup>↑</sup>Presbyterians and

↑Episcopalians, who are part of the ↑Anglican communion. The Pentecostal Church is a charismatic church, where emotions are freely expressed and spiritual healing is practised. Other Christian religious groups include the **Jehovah's Witnesses**, the ↑Christian Scientists, the ↑Mormons and the ↑Seventh-Day Adventists. There are groups who have a special way of life apart from the modern world such as the Shakers, the ↑Amish, the ↑Mennonites and the ↑Hutterites. There are many ↑evangelical churches in the US and ↑evangelists and ↑televangelists include Billy Graham, Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell. Judaism is the second largest religious group in the US. Most American Jews are from families which came to the US from Central and Eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. Other large religious groups in the US include Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus.

### Thesaurus:

**religion** noun U, C

• Is there always a conflict between science and religion?

**faith** • • **theology** • • **Church** • • **sect** • |**formal denomination** • |**often disapproving cult** •

a **religious** faith/sect/cult

**practise** your religion/faith

**belong to** a/the Church/sect/denomination/cult

### Collocations:

#### **Religion**

##### *Being religious*

**believe in** God/Christ/Allah/free will/predestination/heaven and hell/an afterlife/reincarnation

**be/become** a believer/an atheist/an agnostic/a Christian/Muslim/Hindu/Buddhist, etc.

**convert to/practise/ (especially US) practice** a religion/Buddhism/Catholicism/Christianity/Islam/Judaism, etc.

**go to church/(NAmE) temple** (= the synagogue)

**go to** the local church/mosque/synagogue/gurdwara

**belong to** a church/a religious community

**join/enter** the church/a convent/a monastery/a religious sect/the clergy/the priesthood

**praise/worship/obey/serve/glorify** God

##### *Celebrations and ritual*

**attend/hold/conduct/lead** a service

**perform** a ceremony/a rite/a ritual/a baptism/the Hajj/a mitzvah

**carry out/perform** a sacred/burial/funeral/fertility/purification rite

**go on/make** a pilgrimage

**celebrate** Christmas/Easter/Eid/Ramadan/Hanukkah/Passover/Diwali

**observe/break** the Sabbath/a fast/Ramadan

**deliver/preach/hear** a sermon

**lead/address** the congregation

**say/recite** a prayer/blessing

##### *Religious texts and ideas*

**preach/proclaim/spread** the word of God/the Gospel/the message of Islam

**study/follow** the dharma/the teachings of Buddha

**read/study/understand/interpret** scripture/the Bible/the Koran/the gospel/the Torah

**be based on/derive from** divine revelation

**commit/consider sth** heresy/sacrilege

##### *Religious belief and experience*

**seek/find/gain** enlightenment/wisdom

**strengthen/lose** your faith

**keep/practise/practice/abandon** the faith

**save/purify/lose** your soul

**obey/follow/keep/break/violate** a commandment/Islamic law/Jewish law

**be/accept/do** God's will

**receive/experience** divine grace

**achieve/attain** enlightenment/salvation/nirvana

**undergo** a conversion/rebirth/reincarnation

**hear/answer** a prayer

**commit/confess/forgive** a sin

**do/perform** penance

### Example Bank:

- Almost all religions offer the idea of sacred space.
- As a result of her brother's death, Maria found religion.
- Darwinism contradicted orthodox religion.
- Do you still practise your religion?
- Eastern religions such as Shintoism
- Football has become an alternative religion for many people.
- He believes that all religions originated from a single source.
- He founded a new religion.
- He reportedly embraced religion and became a vegetarian
- I believe in God, but I don't belong to any organized religion.
- I believe we should respect all religions of the world equally.

- I don't think the government should try to impose religion on our society.
- In their religion, mountains are sacred.
- Islam is one of the great world religions.
- She believed that her religion needed to be defended by philosophy and logic.
- She has no religion.
- The law prohibits the government from endorsing a particular religion.
- The majority of children adopt the religion of their parents.
- The teachers started preaching the Christian religion to us at every opportunity.
- These faiths draw on the traditional religions of indigenous peoples.
- These people are predominantly Russian Orthodox by religion.
- They never discussed religion or politics.
- This popular religion is a blend of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism with spirit beliefs.
- We're waiting for the company to get religion on recycling.
- a religion based on reason

## religion

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

**re** **li** **gi** **on** **S2** **W2** /rɪˈlɪdʒən/ *BrE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *AmE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *noun*

[**Word Family**: **noun**: ↑religion, ↑religiosity; **adverb**: ↑religiously; **adjective**: ↑religious ≠ ↑irreligious]

[**Date**: 1100-1200; **Language**: Latin; **Origin**: religio, probably from religare; ⇒ ↑rely]

1. **[uncountable]** a belief in one or more gods:

- The U.S. Constitution promises freedom of religion.
- a course on philosophy and religion

2. **[countable]** a particular system of this belief and all the ceremonies and duties that are related to it:

- people of different religions
- the Islamic religion
- The tribe practised a religion that mixed native beliefs and Christianity.

3. **find/get religion** to suddenly become interested in religion in a way that seems strange to other people:

- Miller found religion in prison.

4. **something is (like) a religion** used when saying that something is very important to someone and they are extremely interested in it and spend a lot of time doing it, watching it etc:

- Football was a religion in my family.

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## THESAURUS

- **religion** **[uncountable and countable]** a set of beliefs about a god, and the ceremonies and customs that go with these beliefs. Also used when talking about all religions in general: Judaism is one of the great religions of the world. | African tribal religions | a lecture on the role of religion in society
- **faith** **[uncountable and countable]** a religion, especially one of the large important world religions. Also used when talking about religious belief in general: The school welcomes children of all faiths. | His religious faith was always deeply important to him.
- **belief** **[uncountable and countable]** the act of believing in a god or gods, or the ideas that someone believes because of their religion: We all have the right to freedom of belief. | They were persecuted because of their religious beliefs.
- **denomination** **[countable]** a religious group that has slightly different beliefs from other groups who belong to the same religion: The church is the largest Christian denomination in the United States.
- **sect** **[countable]** a group of people who have their own set of religious beliefs and customs, especially a group that has separated from a larger group: He became a member of a Buddhist sect. | There are two sects in Islam - the Sunni and the Shi'a. | an obscure religious sect
- **the church** **[singular, uncountable]** the Christian religion in general: How great is the influence of the church in present-day society? | The church has a lot to say about this.
- **the Catholic/Protestant etc church (also Church)** **[countable]** one of the separate groups within the Christian religion: the Methodist Church
- **cult** **[countable]** an extreme religious group that is not part of an established religion – often used to show disapproval: The suicides have been linked to a strange religious cult. | the traditional pagan cults of Ancient Rome
- **creed** **[uncountable and countable]** *formal* the religion that you belong to, and the set of beliefs that you accept in order to belong to it – often used in phrases when saying that your religion should not affect how you are treated: There must be no discrimination because of race, colour, or creed. | You will be rewarded whatever your race or creed.
- **faith community** **[countable]** *formal* a group of people who share the same religious beliefs – used especially in official contexts: the benefits of living within a supportive faith community

## religion

Freakuency Pack

12500 **1940**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **1429**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **2k RELIGION** <sup>29542</sup>

religion <sup>25438</sup>

religions <sup>4104</sup>

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

9256 **1689**<sup>25283</sup> *nn1*

105 **64314**<sup>138</sup> *nnu*

10 **247479**<sup>11</sup> *np1*

6 **342896**<sup>6</sup> *jj*